

DAYTON (OH)  
JOURNAL HERALD

Circ. no. 84,174

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date:

## Air Force Defended

Editor Of The Journal Herald:

I am an Air Force wife, and I am sick of the headline readers like James J. Dillon who go off on a tangent about so-called Air Force "shenanigans" without knowing the facts. Take his letter of Feb. 22 point by point and see how accurate he is:

1. That "tizzy officers' club in Okinawa" is an airmen's club. Officers are not even allowed in the club except by invitation. The Air Force is no longer confined to the continental limits of the United States and it is necessary that recreational facilities be provided for the young men who are sent overseas.

What Mr. Dillon obviously doesn't know is that these clubs are non-profit organizations that cost the taxpayer nothing. They are self-supporting safeguards that keep the boys off the street as much as possible and out of the brothels.

In places where such facilities are not available for recreation, the venereal rate is very high. Don't blame the Air Force for this. No man is obliged to sign a pledge against biology when he joins the armed forces. But they need protection and clubs such as this are one answer.

And so, just because a magazine reporter had some elusive (to me) ax to grind, congress will investigate and men like Mr. Dillon will worry himself into a tizzy about his tax money. Rest assured, Mr. Dillon, the only tab you are going to pay is the cost of the investigation. But every son's mother better hope the clubs are allowed to continue because they save a lot of trouble and temptation.

2. Now the "dog washing manuals," which actually go beyond dog washing. Sometimes these jobs include clothes washing, potato peeling, baby sitting, and dishwashing. It is all true and there are manuals to prove it. But get this, Mr. Dillon. These are strictly voluntary jobs sought after to earn extra pay on the airman's own time.

And the pay comes from the general's pocket, not the taxpayers. No airman is ever solicited or ordered to do these jobs. Any

officer, general or otherwise, would be severely reprimanded if he required an airman to perform such personal services except on a voluntary basis.

3. As for Communist infiltration in the churches—well, I rather imagine that if there are Communists about, they will go to church. But neither Mr. Dillon, nor I, nor the AF, nor the National Council of Churches

officers would have accurate statistics on this. And all of us, including the NCC, should wait until we know what we are talking about before we start another witch hunt.

After all, a delegation from the World Council of Churches toured Russia this past year and reported that religion in the Soviet Union is "rich and intense," that the theological seminaries are well-filled, and that the congregations are large. And the report did not indicate in any way that Blue laws (red laws in Russia, I suppose) had to be enforced in order to get the people into the churches.

4. That monstrosity at Denver that Mr. Dillon refers to is nonexistent. He has not followed our growth closely enough because the institution to which he is evidently referring is the U. S. Air Force academy located at Colorado Springs, Colo. Since he presented no particular reasons for his reference, I can hardly be more specific in rebuttal.

However, it is reasonable to assume that any new endeavor will have bugs in it. I don't imagine that even Harvard university found it all smooth sailing back in 1636 and Harvard did not have congress breathing down its neck.

Study political science, study the theories of democracy, study military development, and study history. Get your facts straight, Mr. Dillon. You were moved to write a letter to the editor by an airmen's club in Okinawa, some manuals, and your evident disregard for Gilbert and Sullivan—DON'T ANY OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES MOVE YOU TO THAT EXTENT?

For instance, if you feel the need of a soap box, start on why our President, his secretary of defense, Mr. Dulles of CIA, and military brass (including very highly paid civilians) cannot look at the same set of figures and come up with at least a similar answer. And remember only part of this combine is military or Air Force. Then start wondering why the safety of and a dignified reception for the President of the United States is dependent upon whether or not a sex pervert and kidnaper, already convicted by law, is ex-

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

cuted in California.

Then, too, in consideration of that tax you are so worried about, try to figure out why a part of it is used to pay a storage bill for grain we can't use, but which we have already paid to have grown. And your storage bill comes to one and one-half million dollars each day, sir.

Yes, you and all citizens have plenty to worry about and they are not in Okinawa. So gripe about the Air Force if you like, and make your inane comparisons. But get your facts straight and give us constructive criticism instead of generalities. The United States Air Force is working for you, Mr. Dillon!

BARBARA A. BEYER

CPYRGHT